

## Shelton State Libraries HISTORY

### I. Milestones in the History of the Shelton State Libraries

#### **Fall 1975**

Brewer State Junior College, based in Fayette, AL, opened a branch campus in Tuscaloosa, with 3 full-time faculty, 1 full-time branch librarian, Debbie Grimes (responsible to the library director on main campus), and 800 FTE students. The Tuscaloosa Campus opened in an old elementary school building on Greensboro Avenue. The Library consisted of 2 classrooms opened with a separating wall removed, homemade bookshelves, duplicates and *Reader's Digest Condensed Books*. The Library staff in Tuscaloosa also included one part-time librarian who worked evenings.

#### **Summer 1977**

The Tuscaloosa Campus of Brewer State expanded and moved to Skyland Boulevard into a renovated strip mall (Gaylord Building). The Library was located in the center of the building, surrounded by classrooms. A Library Director (Francis Davis) and clerk were hired in addition to the branch librarian (Debbie Grimes), who moved to an AV/library position. Library School student, Don Bell, was hired in August to keep the library open at night until 9:00. Full-time faculty and college employees increased and enrollment increased to around 2000 FTE.

#### **January 1, 1979**

The Tuscaloosa Campus was separated from Brewer State and merged with Shelton State Technical College, established in Tuscaloosa in 1952, to become Shelton State Community College.

#### **Spring 1979**

Library Director, Francis Davis, resigned and Debbie Grimes became the interim and then the permanent Library Director.

The Library staff was increased and new emphasis was placed on collection building in order to ensure accreditation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. The book budget increased substantially for several years.

Leo Sumner became President of the new Shelton State Community College.

#### **Fall 1981**

Library services were extended to the Technical Campus (Fifteenth Street) of Shelton State, which had no central library services. Prior to this change, instructional support materials were housed only in shops or departments in various buildings on campus. Although this practice continued until the campus closed in 1996, a small reference library was established on the Technical Campus (located on Fifteenth Street). This small library was first housed in a walk-in

closet in the Victor Poole Learning Center (1983-Spring 1988?). The small library was then moved and housed in the old bomb shelter underneath the AC/Refrigeration shop (1988-1996?). Staffing included 2 full-time clerks, with management and assistance provided by librarians from the main campus as needed. The primary role of this library was to provide basic reference materials, to support the nursing programs (which used traditional library services), and to handle ordering of instructional materials for other programs on that campus.

#### **1986**

Shelton State's library entered into full membership in SOLINET and OCLC and began generating catalog holdings records in electronic format.

#### **1993-94**

Shelton State's library collections underwent retrospective conversion and preparation to automate with a Dynix Library System. With no prior experience or expertise with automated systems and no institutional assistance from outside the library staff, the library staff barcoded 30,000 volumes, converted records, and implemented the Dynix system (which officially went online Fall 1994). Simple e-mail among library staff was included in the Dynix system. Shelton State began planning for a new campus.

#### **1994**

C.A. Fredd State Technical College (HBCU) merged with Shelton State. In anticipation of the new campus and other organizational changes (chiefly the expansion of the nursing program on the Skyland Campus), the library on the technical campus (Fifteenth Street) closed. Its resources were divided between the main library and new Fredd Campus Branch Library. The Fredd branch library included 2 classrooms, with an adjoining office. One full-time clerk (Jean Mack) was assigned to this facility. Library management covered all library services, regardless of location. Librarians and other staff members provided services as needed between the two campuses. The Dynix system was extended by telephone line to the C.A. Fredd Campus.

#### **1995**

Three PCs with dial-up connections through local, commercial IP were installed on the main campus on Skyland Boulevard and served as the library's first Internet connections. Planning continued for a new campus library.

#### **1996**

Plans were finalized for the new campus library and plans were made for moving the library and its collections. Building was completed for Phase I on the new campus. The Technical Campus (Fifteenth Street) closed and moved to the new campus in summer 1996.

#### **1997**

The media scheduling module was added to Shelby (the local name given to the online catalog system). For Spring Semester 1997, most classes from the Skyland Campus were moved to the

new campus. The library moved the AV department to the new campus but all other services remained on the Skyland Campus.

### **August 1997**

The main library on the Skyland Campus closed and prepared for the move to the new campus. Because of moving schedules, etc., the decision was made to retain the AV office in its location in classrooms on the new campus and to establish a copy center and Reserves room in the faculty offices next to the new library for the beginning of the fall semester 1997. Moving was completed and the library opened its doors at the end of August, 2 weeks after the semester began on the new campus and one day earlier than expected. AV and reserves were re-established within the new library. Library staff was instrumental in establishing college wide networking and full access to the Internet/World Wide Web through the Alabama Supercomputer Authority on both campuses.

### **May 27, 1998**

The new main campus library was dedicated and named the Karen Phifer Brooks and Susan Phifer Cork Library (Brooks-Cork Library).

### **June 2000**

The Dynix library system, purchased by epixTech, was upgraded to WebPAC, a webbed catalog, with 12 public workstations. All library staff members had PC access to Dynix and the Web, as did almost all college employees.

### **February 2001**

A 3M security system was installed in the Martin Campus library, with door counters and a voice message system; over 2500 users were counted during the first week of installation.

### **Fall 2002**

The WebPac catalog was upgraded to iPAC, with enriched content and other specialized features to provide enhanced services to library users. Plans were made to migrate from Dynix (classic) to the Horizon Integrated Library System.

### **December 2003**

Library technology manager, Dr. Chuck Boening, accepted an offer from the college to become a full-time history teacher. Chuck left his library position at the end of December and began teaching full-time in January 2004.

### **March 2004**

Cy-Bucs, "information services in a relaxed environment," opened in Room 2413 on the Martin Campus, serving as an extension of the Brooks-Cork Library. Cy-Bucs offered packaged beverages and snacks in a lab environment, with 12 computers, booths, and a networked laser printer. Student contributions included selection of name, design and construction of aluminum sign, design and installation of computer background, and marketing plan. The lab was open

for 21 hours each week. First week door count was 506 persons. Spring semester door count on May 6 was 3,125 persons, an average of 520 persons per week.

### **Spring/Summer 2004**

The Brooks-Cork Library migrated to the Horizon Integrated System (with cataloging, academic reserves, media scheduling, and administrative components); Horizon Information Portal (HIP) replaced iPAC as public catalog interface. Library was managed with services through more than 100 computer workstations at the Martin Campus, the Fredd Campus, and electronic classroom, and Cy-Bucs.

The door count at the Main Library for academic year 2003-2004 (Sep.-Aug.) was 176,238 persons. The breakdown was: Fall semester of 2003: 74,265. Spring semester of 2004: 70,946. Summer term for 2004: 31,027. The C.A. Fredd Library door count for the academic year was 15,672 persons.

### **Spring/Summer 2005**

The Fredd Campus Branch Library was temporarily relocated to the Cafetorium during the renovation of the Administration Building. Upon completion of the renovation in 2006, the branch library returned to the Administration Building in a new room, refurbished with new shelving.

The door count for the Main Library for the 2004-2005 (Sep.-Aug.) academic year was 175,075 persons. The C.A. Fredd Library door count for the academic year was 11,680 persons (through April 2005). The Library moved and did not reinstall the door counter.

### **May 2006**

The Fredd Campus Branch Library was officially named the Louise Boyd Lewis Library on May 4, 2006, as part of the Fortieth Anniversary Celebration of the C.A. Fredd Campus. A special celebration in honor of its namesake was held in July 2006. The official designation of the college libraries became the "Shelton State Libraries."

### **Summer/Fall 2006**

Web Reporter and acquisitions functions were added to the Horizon Integrated Library System. Supervision of Cy-Bucs was moved to the office of the Dean of Student Services and was no longer a library function.

### **Fall 2007**

The door count for the Main Library for the 2006-2007 academic year was 174,678 persons. The door count for the C.A. Fredd Library for the 2006-2007 academic year was 15,600 persons.

### **Fall 2008**

Microfilm subscriptions were cancelled and electronic formats were embraced as the most effective means of providing current information for Shelton State students.

**Spring/Summer 2009**

The Shelton State Libraries migrated from the SirsiDynix Horizon Library System to the Innovative Interfaces Millennium catalog with user-friendly access and features for Twenty-First Century students.

**Fall 2009**

The Shelton State Libraries added the Encore Discovery Platform, with advanced search features, to Millennium, reinstating content and consolidated searching components.

The Marquis reference book, Who's Who in America 2010, was published and included an article on Library Director, Debbie Grimes.

**April 27 2011**

Tuscaloosa was hit with a devastating tornado at 5:00 p.m. College and Library were closed for several days, then the Library was open for limited hours for a week.

**Summer 2011**

Microfilm and periodical backfiles were eliminated for all but the current year. All bound volumes, except for a long run of *National Geographic* and *Life*, were eliminated. Only the *New York Times* was retained in microfilm format as a contemporaneous resource. A re-carpeting project changed the color scheme of the Brooks-Cork Library on the Martin Campus.

**Spring 2012**

The Library's collection of OverDrive electronic books go live (are available) to students on February 14.

**Summer 2012**

A new Assistant Director / Electronic Services Librarian, Kelly Ann Griffiths, was hired and began work on August 15. Ms Griffiths was formerly Library Director at Marion Military Institute.

Long-time library director Dr. Deborah Grimes retired August 30.

**Fall 2012**

Librarian Glen Johnson became the Interim Library Director beginning September 1.

The door count showed 176,421 students coming in the library during the last academic year. This was an increase of 18,464 students over the previous year.

New spotlighting was added to the main campus Library Gallery on October 24-25.

A \$1 million renovation of the College Atrium was completed in 7 months (May 7-November 28), and officially opened to students on Thursday, November 29.

The first phase of the Shelton State Archives went online to the general public on December 4. This concluded 4 months of work by Library staff members to get the entire file of 172 issues of the college's historic newspaper, *The Shelton State Courier*, for the years 1997-2009, online and accessible to researchers. The Archives included an online Index to articles in the newspaper.

## II. Brooks-Cork Library Dedication, May 27, 1998

### **Remarks by Dr. Deborah J. Grimes, Director of Library Services**

When I started to work in 1975, the junior college was housed in the old Jemison Elementary School building on Greensboro Avenue. The library occupied two classrooms with the wall removed between them. The bookshelves were homemade, from two-by-fours, by faculty and staff of what was then Brewer State Junior College, and the collection consisted of a few hundred *Reader's Digest* condensed books and duplicates weeded from the main collection in Fayette, where Brewer State was based. My office was about four feet wide and twenty feet long—it was the cloak closet between two classrooms. The radiator didn't work that first winter, and the insect population was incredibly robust.

In 1978, we moved to the Skyland Campus to what had been a shopping center, with the library located at the dead center of the college. The walls didn't quite reach the ceilings, and the only place you could turn out the lights without turning off an entire section of lighting was in the audiovisual area. Somewhere in my files for later years, I have a photograph of library staff members wearing hard hats when a wall was removed and the library was expanded to take in three former classrooms.

A few years after moving to the Skyland Campus, we opened a small branch library in the old electronics lab on the Fifteenth Street Campus, where the vocational/technical programs were based. We moved into what had served at one point as a bomb shelter, built as a result of the Cuban missile scare of the 1960s. We closed that branch just as we opened a new one on the C.A. Fredd Campus in 1995, housing the library again, in two classrooms with one office for library and audiovisual services. By the time we moved to the new campus, the combined library collections had grown to almost 40,000 volumes.

So, twenty-three years later, coming full circle from Greensboro Avenue to Old Greensboro Road, this is the first time in my career that I've worked in a library that was actually meant to be a library.

As we made our plans for the new campus, we knew that evolving information technologies demand that we stand with one foot in the Twentieth Century, firmly placed on traditional print resources, and one in the Twenty-First Century, ready for electronic media—and ready to move Shelton State students to a “new time, new world...” as the college asserts in its public relations campaign.

There are three features of the Brooks-Cork Library that seem to be especially appropriate for a library in these times. First, the floor plan, notably in the office and work areas, reflects our philosophy of service. The walls are glass to make us visible and accessible to library users, and the doors open both ways—to students and to a central work area. This accommodates our very fluid work style, a necessity in a service organization, where we move in and out of various tasks and activities in a short time span. Librarians' offices open to the Information Commons, the core of the library, where users are most likely to need

assistance.

The second feature that is appropriate to these times is the one that students requested most frequently—group study rooms. When we first opened the doors in August 1997, only one of the group study rooms was furnished—but lack of furniture didn't stop students from sitting on the floor and using all of the rooms anyway. Since February 1998, when we furnished the remaining rooms, they never seem to be empty. The use of these rooms mirrors trends in education as well as the workplace for collaboration and group problem-solving.

Finally, the third feature that really moves us into the next century is the wiring that was done as the library was built. Our network specialist teases us that, because there is so much wiring in this area, we never have to worry about the roof collapsing on us. We have wires running from the Information Commons, where the electronic databases are centered, to the study carrels, to the far corners of the Silent Study Area, to all group study rooms, and to the floor where study tables are located. Once the college's networking is truly in place, this wiring will enable our students to access library resources and even Internet from any spot in the library. In the very near future, we will virtually expand the walls of the library to offer database services between campuses and the tutorial centers.

We recently ran a circulation report and compared the use of the library since we moved to comparable months prior to the move. We find that, in the first eight months in the new library, we have checked out 218% more items than we did in the preceding eight months on the old campus. Over the same time period last year (September through April), circulation increased 125%. These are dramatic changes—and, at least part of the increase, I think, can be attributed to the new facilities. So, we hope those of you who joined us for the dedication ceremony will continue your use and support of the Brooks-Cork Library as we attempt to improve and expand library and information services to meet the needs of the Twenty-first Century student and faculty.

Thank you for being here.

### III. Dedication of the Kiwanis Room of the Brooks-Cork Library, December 21, 1998

#### **Remarks by Dr. Deborah J. Grimes<sup>1</sup>, Director of Library Services**

We're so very pleased to have you visit the campus today to see not only the library and the Kiwanis Room but all of our other facilities as well. The Shelton State Brooks-Cork Library Staff and I are grateful for the contribution made by the Kiwanis Club of Tuscaloosa to the college for library services.

We have used the funds to furnish the Kiwanis Room and three group study rooms and to upgrade computer hardware to take the library into the next millennium. So you can be sure that your efforts have made a significant difference to us at Shelton State. The Kiwanis Room itself has been set aside for two main purposes. First, to serve as a special place for college employees to study or do research; second, to serve as a base for the archives of the Kiwanis Club of Tuscaloosa.

I have begun organizing the archival materials<sup>2</sup> that I've received, some of which are on display up in the Kiwanis Room today. We have excellent records from the early years, including our original charter and

scrapbooks beginning with our charter meeting on April 13, 1925, at the McLester Hotel. Many of the names on the membership lists and committee lists are the fathers or grandfathers of current members. As I index the scrapbooks, I enjoy seeing the names of people like Owen Meredith (Sr. and Jr.), A.G. (Gus) Williams, William and Buck Oliver, and Fred Neilson, from our history. Mr. Meredith was our first secretary and he had a very colorful way of writing notes and minutes. I found that he usually called the Thursday evening meeting “the Hour De Luxe.”

As I glanced through the first scrapbook, which covers 1925 through 1962, I’ve found some interesting items of club history. I’ve found programs for the Kiwanis Kapers, which were held as “Ladies Night” on New Year’s Eve for many years. I’ve found numerous news articles about the Kiwanis Club’s War Relief fund during the 1940s. I’ve read letters written from Sgt. Rosie Rosenfeld from “somewhere in Africa, 1942,” thanking the club for their letters to him; and I’ve even found a telegram from 1930 with this message:

*Being a Kiwanian myself, I make a request of your club that you persuade your member Gordon Palmer<sup>3</sup> to postpone his wedding as this affair will conflict very seriously with my performance on this date.*

The telegram was sent by George Ringling of Ringling Brothers Circus.

I’ve also found other evidence of the club’s long history of community service. There was a receipt for \$6.30 for eyeglasses for a school girl in 1925; there was another receipt to Christian and Faucet General Merchandise for \$10.05 for union suits, shoes, socks, and a sweater for children who could not attend school because they had no clothes. There was notation of a \$250 donation in 1930 to match a grant from the state to help refurbish a school in Sylvan [Alabama], that had burned. Without the Kiwanis contribution, the school would literally have closed, leaving children in the community with no place to learn.

As a Member of the club and past member of the Board of Directors, I know how carefully resources are allocated to meet community needs. We in the Brooks-Cork Library at Shelton State are honored to be part of the Kiwanis Club’s history of giving and to receive the fruits of your labor to benefit our faculty and students.

So today we dedicate the Kiwanis Room –and the resources acquired through the contributions of the Kiwanis Club--to the service of students, faculty, administrators, and staff at Shelton State Community College. And, in recognition of its many services to the Tuscaloosa community, we are proud to name a room in honor of the Kiwanis Club of Tuscaloosa.

At the close of the meeting today, I hope you’ll be able to visit the new Kiwanis Room. It’s located on the second floor in the library and you can follow me or some of the library staff members upstairs. Mr. Bean’s<sup>4</sup> photographs are also on exhibit in the library and, if you haven’t already had an opportunity to see some of his work, you may want to take a look at them today. If you’d like to tour the campus, the Shelton Ambassadors, standing just outside our room, will be waiting to give you a guided tour. If you’d like to tour the Bean-Brown Theatre, Glen Johnson, a member of the library staff and regular member of the Theatre Tuscaloosa acting troupe, will be waiting to show you around. Thank you all for being here today—have a very happy holiday!

<sup>1</sup> Dr. Deborah J. Grimes subsequently served as President of the Kiwanis Club of Tuscaloosa in 2002 for a partial term and 2003-2004 for a full term.

<sup>2</sup> Graduate intern Sigrid Pound completed the organization of the Kiwanis archives during the Summer



2005 term.

<sup>3</sup>Gordon D. Palmer was a Trustee of The University of Alabama and President of the Kiwanis Club of Tuscaloosa 1934-1935. Gordon D. Palmer Hall on the UA Campus houses the mathematics and psychology departments.

<sup>4</sup>A. H. (Howard) Bean was a long-time member of the Kiwanis Club of Tuscaloosa. He was noted for his photographs, taken during flights around the world. He was one of only a handful of individuals who has visited both the North and South Poles. Bean was also a supporter of Shelton State Community College; the Bean-Brown Theatre at Shelton State was named in memory of his wife and daughter.

#### IV. Celebration of the Louise Boyd Lewis Library, July 27, 2006

*The Fredd Campus Branch Library was officially named in honor of Louise Boyd Lewis on May 4, 2006, as part of the Fortieth Anniversary celebration of the C.A. Fredd Campus. The library staff celebrated the naming of the library on July 27, 2006, with a casual reception for Mrs. Lewis and her guests, faculty, staff, and students on the Fredd Campus.*

#### **Remarks by Dr. Deborah J. Grimes, Director of Library Services**

There is no greater symbol of learning or democracy than a library. Libraries promote equity, intellectual freedom, stewardship, literacy, and service. And, with equal access and equal opportunity, libraries are cornerstones of a democratic society. They're bigger than all of us. When you connect a library to someone like Louise Boyd Lewis, you have something really special. We thank you, Mrs. Lewis, for your contributions to the college and especially to your support of library services on the Fredd Campus. The staff of the Shelton State Libraries is very proud to be associated with you and the library named in your honor.

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